

Serial Number: 10/708,278
Filed: 2/20/2004

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Remarks

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement along with the filing of the present application February 20, 2004. An additional Information Disclosure Statement related to the European Search Report of a counterpart foreign application was filed October 29, 2004. The forms 1449 of each of these Information Disclosure Statements were not included in the Examiners Official Action. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiners consideration of both Information Disclosure Statement(s) and return of the signed form(s) 1449.

The Examiner included specification layout guidelines "suggested for the applicants use". Applicant respectfully submits that the 37 CFR 1.77(b) guidelines are permissive, and that the present specification layout is acceptable according to all applicable USPTO statutory requirements.

The Examiner objected to informalities in claims 8, 12 and 20. Claims 8 and 12 have been amended to reference elements with proper antecedent basis. The Examiner indicated "the insulator extends" in claim 20 lacked proper antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiners attention to claim 18 from which claim 19 depends, from which claim 20 depends, where the "insulator" element referred to in claim 20 is initially introduced.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Doles*, in view of *Le*. The Examiner identifies an "interface" having an "angled guide surface" 41. In fact, the "angled guide surface" referred to by the Examiner appears on a flare ring 40, not an interface. The flare ring 40 does not couple with the body but instead threadably mounts within the "interface" sleeve 23 which in turn threadably couples with the "body" clamping member 30. The electrical connector of claims 1 and 17 require an interface adapted to couple with the body, the interface having an angled guide surface that forms the outer conductor groove. An interface having an angled guide surface that forms the outer conductor groove fails to appear or be suggested in the cited reference.

Further, claim 11 as originally filed and claims 1 and 17 as currently amended require that the electrical connector according to the invention be adapted to retain the outer conductor by deforming the leading edge of the helically corrugated outer conductor of the cable upon application of axial compression, as described in detail in specification paragraphs 37-40. This novel and non-obvious aspect of the invention provides a cost efficient and easily installable solution with both a secure mechanical and electrical interconnection between the outer

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conductor and the connector. The cited reference, *Dole*, operates by flaring the leading edge of the outer conductor upon the beveled surface 41 of the flaring ring 40 and then clamping it between the beveled surface 41 and co-operating beveled surface 32 of the clamping member 30 when the connector is threaded together. As evidenced by the ability to unthread the clamping surfaces away from each other and then unthread the outer conductor to remove it from the electrical connector, retention of the outer conductor within *Dole* depends upon the clamping force, not deformation of a leading edge of the outer conductor (Col. 3, Ln 43-47). The other cited reference, *Le*, requires soldering to retain the outer conductor within the electrical connector.

Therefore, because neither reference discloses, teaches or suggests each and every element of the invention as claimed, rejection of claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiners indication that claims 3-5, 8 and 13 would be allowable if amended into independent form. However, because the independent claims from which these claims depend are believed to be allowable, as described in detail herein above, these claims should also be allowable in their present form.

Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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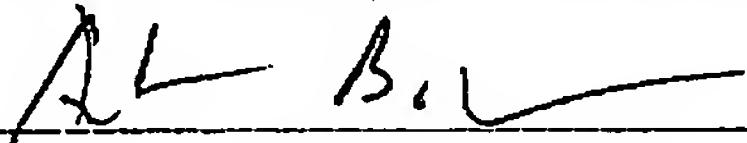
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No 703 872-9306) on January 6, 2005.



Andrew D. Babcock

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